

## Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 231403Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1629

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN, US

SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE IN PRINT

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE INFO BOMBAY, MADRAS FROM  
CALCUTTA DTD MAY 23RD:

QTE:CALCUTTA 1006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN, US

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE IN PRINT

REF: CALCUTTA 0577 (NOTAL)

1. PLEASE REFER TO MAY 11 EDITION OF BOMBAY'S ECONOMIC  
AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, P. 745, FOR STORY BY LAWRENCE S.  
LIFSHULTZ ON HARCOS AND FLETCHER.

2. STORY NOTES THAT UPCOMING TRIAL WILL BE "FIRST EVER  
TRIAL IN INDIA OF WESTERNERS CHARGED WITH SPYING," "WHEN  
THE TRIAL OPENS, THE PROSECUTION WILL APPARENTLY ALLEGE  
THAT HARCOS AND FLETCHER, IN COLLABORATION WITH CHANG  
OF SAN FRANCISCO, HATCHED A CONSPIRACY DURING OCTOBER 1972  
TO CARRY OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTS IN INDIA ON BEHALF OF SOME  
FOREIGN POWER. THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION WILL NOT BE SPECIFIED  
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NOR WILL IT BE CLEARLY ALLEGED THAT THE ACCUSED ARE CIA

AGENTS:" "THE ATTITUDE OF THE US EMBASSY TO THE CASE HAS BEEN ONE OF NEAR INDIFFERENCE, IF NOT CALCULATED SILENCE. OTHER THAN A SYMPATHETIC VICE-CONSUL IN CALCUTTA WHO HAS VISITED THE PRISONERS REGULARLY, THE US EMBASSY HAS NOT INVOLVED ITSELF IN THE CASE." "THE US GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT ITS DISTANCE BECAUSE IT WOULD LIKE THIS TRIAL TO GO ON IN SECRET WITHOUT ANY PUBLICITY OR POSSIBILITY OF SCANDAL."

3. NOTE: LIBSCHULTZ IS AN AMCIT, WHO HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN CALCUTTA PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, STRINGER FOR FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. HE HAS MET WITH BOTH MCWILLIAMS AND BURLEIGH AND ATTEMPTED TO DISCUSS HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE WITH MCWILLIAMS WHO REFUSED TO COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY ON THE CASE PER MY INSTRUCTIONS.

PIKERING

UNQTE. MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ESPIONAGE, PRESS COMMENTS, TRIALS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** HARCOS/FLETCHER CASE IN PRINT FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE INFO BOMBAY, MADRAS FROM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, CASC, IN, US, (MARCOS), (FLETCHER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005